



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

August 17, 2021

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, Chairman, District I
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chairman, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman Pro Tem, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
Mr. Matthew Durham, District II

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / The Journal

Call to Order

Mr. Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Elliott opened the meeting reminding the public they have two opportunities to speak during Council meetings, which is during the public comment session and also during the public hearing session, if scheduled. Other than those two instances, the public should remain silent during the Council meeting. Anyone making a disturbance during the meeting will be asked to leave Council Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Root noted the reason for the metal detector at the door was for the open carry with training went into effect and some citizens are confused as to when you can carry openly and when you can carry concealed. He further noted you cannot bring a weapon into a public facility.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Elliott asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cain led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the July 20, 2021 Regular Minutes as presented.

Attorney's Comments

None at this meeting.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock addressed Council with the following items:

- Perry Hill & Utica Mill Hill Villages Opportunity Zone presentation has been rescheduled until September 7, 2021 due to unforeseen circumstances
- Introduction to Ms. Kristie Burr, Voter Registration & Elections Director, has been rescheduled until September 7, 2021 due to the weather

Public Comment Session

If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Katie Smith at ksmith@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.

Mr. Tony Adams addressed Council regarding the disbursement of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds that the County has received so far.

Mr. Richard Bock addressed Council regarding buses of illegal immigrants being deposited in Oconee County in the middle of the night under the cover of darkness and hopes another mask mandate is not in our future.

Mr. Perry Smith addressed Council regarding infrastructure and employees of Oconee County and has not received an apology from a Council member for calling citizens “a mob”.

Mr. Mickey Haney addressed Council offering an apology for a discrepancy that he made during his budget process presentation and noted he had entered the number wrong, has noticed the County has added the assets on the financial transparency page, and the airport.

Mr. Haney petitioned Council for an extra four minutes during the Public Comment Session.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to allow Mr. Haney to have an additional four minutes to speak during the Public Comment Session.

Mr. Haney continued to address Council regarding the airport hangar rates and reduced property taxes for aircraft.

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County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. Durham responded to all citizen's comments that spoke during the Public Comment session.

Mr. Hart responded to Mr. Adams' comments.

Presentation to Council

- Perry Hill & Utica Mill Hill Villages Opportunity Zone

Presentation to Council rescheduled until September 7, 2021 – see County Administrator comments

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

If you are not able to attend in person and you would like to be heard during the public hearings, please contact Katie Smith at or 864-718-1023 so that she may coordinate your participation by telephone.

Ordinance 2021-14 “AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF A PORTION OF LOCAL CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING THAT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO OCONEE COUNTY UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”), AS FOLLOWS: (1) APPROPRIATING TWO MILLION AND 00/100 (\$2,000,000.00) DOLLARS OF COUNTY ARPA FUNDING FOR PURPOSES OF NECESSARY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWN OF SALEM (“SALEM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT”); (2) AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, OF UP TO TWO MILLION AND 00/100 (\$2,000,000.00) DOLLARS OF SUCH APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE SALEM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED THERETO.”

As directed by Council on June 1, 2021

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Elliott opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Elliott asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2021-14**.

Ordinance 2021-15 “AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF A PORTION OF LOCAL CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING THAT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO OCONEE COUNTY UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”), AS FOLLOWS: (1) APPROPRIATING ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$1,300,000.00) DOLLARS OF COUNTY ARPA FUNDING FOR PURPOSES OF NECESSARY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

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FOR THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER (“WESTMINSTER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT”); (2) AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, OF UP TO ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$1,300,000.00) DOLLARS OF SUCH APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE WESTMINSTER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED THERETO.”

General Government matter

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Elliott opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Elliott asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2021-15**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-14 [see caption above]

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-14** on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2021-15 [see caption above]

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-15** on third & final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-16 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENT RIGHTS TO THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AT THE GOLDEN CORNER COMMERCE PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

General Government matter

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-16** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-17 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDED FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND PREZERO US SERVICES, LLC, AND AMENDING THE AMENDED FEE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF

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OCTOBER 1, 2019; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

General Government matter

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-17** on first reading.

Ordinance 2021-18 “AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE PARCEL 192-00-04-028 FROM THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO THE LAKE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, PURSUANT TO OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 38, ARTICLE 8.”

Forwarded from the Planning Commission

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-18** on first reading.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

[None Scheduled.]

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Procurement #: 21-01 – South Cove Park RV Dump Station / PRT – South Cove / Project: \$189,460.00
10% Contingency: \$18,946.00
Total Award: \$208,406.00

Funding from Local Accommodations Tax

Budget: \$208,460.00 / Project Cost: \$208,460.00 / Balance: \$0.00

South Cove County Park camping nights have increased 88% over the last 5 years, resulting in the need for additional infrastructure to handle the demand. The addition of this RV Dump Station will double South Cove’s capacity for handling camper exits; which is heaviest on holidays and Sunday mornings. The South Cove Park RV Dump Station Project consists of: clearing and stump grubbing of all onsite (in the construction area) trees; Installation of new RV dump station including grading and paving for new dump station parking; grading of new stormwater ditch; water service extension; dump station component installation; 2,000-gallon septic tank installation; and approximately 1000 LF of new septic drain field installation and seeding.

It is the staff’s recommendation that Council [1] approve the award of ITB 21-01 to Greenstone Construction, LLC., of Seneca SC in the amount of **\$189,460.00**, plus a 10% contingency amount of **\$18,946.00**, for a total award of **\$208,406.00** and [2] authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0 [Mr. Cain recused; recusal form filed with these minutes], to [1] approve the award of ITB 21-01 to Greenstone Construction, LLC., of Seneca SC in the amount of **\$189,460.00**, plus a 10% contingency amount of **\$18,946.00**, for a total award of **\$208,406.00** and [2] authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.

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Council consideration and approval for funding allocation in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 to the City of Seneca for critical water and wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout the unincorporated and incorporated service area from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

Discussion continued to include:

- Initial deliberation and instructing the County Attorney to draft an ordinance to authorize the appropriation and expenditure if Council sees fit
- Three readings and a public hearing on the ordinance
- Request from City of Seneca is included in the backup materials

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Attorney to draft an appropriation and expenditure ordinance.

Council Committee Reports

Mr. Durham read from a prepared statement [copy filed with backup materials] outlining discussions held at the July 20, 2021 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

No nomination was made for the At-Large seat during this meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to enter into Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

[1] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Remy.

[2] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Thread.

[3] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Ruby Slipper.

[4] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Street Car.

[5] Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matter regarding potential acquisition of real property.

[6] Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matter related to acquisition of real property interest for infrastructure development.

[7] Receive legal advice and discuss potential litigation related to Elevated Youth Services.

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[8] Discuss personnel matter related to the County Council Clerk.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Elliott stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Administrator to negotiate and consummate the purchase of easement interest as discussed for an amount up to \$100,000, including attorney fees for the various easement interests regarding the contractual matter related to acquisition of real property interest for infrastructure development.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Durham, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Attorney to proceed as directed as discussed regarding the litigation related to Elevated Youth Services.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to direct staff to post the job as discussed and to filter the resumes to Council.

All Council members thanked Ms. Smith for her four years of service as the Clerk to County Council and appreciate all that she done throughout her years of service.

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Davis, it was approved 5 – 0, to direct staff to post the job as discussed and to filter the resumes to Council.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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